

## PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

## A NEW SPECIES OF GALICTIS FROM MEXICO.

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**Galictis canaster** new species. Yucatan Grison.

*Distribution.*—Known only from Tunkas, northern Yucatan, Mexico.

*Specific characters.*—Face and entire underparts including feet and legs black; black area of face limited posteriorly by a well defined pure white stripe extending across forehead above eyes and reaching back across each cheek, covering front of ears, and thence along sides of neck becoming obsolete near shoulders; rest of upper side of head shading gradually back from the pure white stripe into the general smoky gray of upperparts, including tail; underfur on upperparts light gray; long hairs same color at base with broad subterminal black bands and white tips. The black bands on the long hairs produce the effect of a thin dark wash over the pale under color.

*Size and proportions.*—Total length (estimated) between 650 and 700 millimeters. A powerfully built, short legged, heavy bodied animal with short round ears like *Galictis vittata*, but exceeding it in size.

*Remarks.*—The species described above is closely related to *Galictis vittata*, agreeing with it generally in proportions and in the characteristic pattern of coloration. The most striking difference between the two animals is in the color of the upperparts. The hairs on the back of *Galictis vittata* from Guiana and Brazil are described as being dark brown or yellowish gray with white or yellowish tips. *Galictis canaster* has the underfur and basal half of the long hairs of the back light gray, the long hairs have broad subterminal bands of black and small white tips.

The northermost references I have been able to find for *Galictis vittata* (the only species commonly recognized in the restricted genus *Galictis*)

are Guiana and northern Brazil. The capture of a member of the group in Yucatan adds greatly to its known range and no doubt indicates that it is represented, although hitherto overlooked, in much of the intervening region.

The interesting animal upon which the present description is based was captured alive by the Indians near Tunkas, Yucatan, and sent to General Canton, Governor of the State. While in Merida, Yucatan, I heard of a strange animal in the Governor's possession and upon making known my desire to see it was courteously invited to visit his house for the purpose. There I found the animal living in a cage and made the accompanying description of its size and color. Later, while working at Tunkas, the Indians told me of its capture and said it was extremely rare. They called it '*El Rey de las Ardillas,*' or king of the squirrels, but it appeared to have been previously unknown to nearly everyone with whom I talked.